

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 041015Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8137

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, GB, UN

SUBJ: NEW GABONESE PERMREP TO UN

1. GOG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT GABONESE UN PERMREP ESSONGHE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY LEON NDONG NZE, CURRENTLY SERVING AS GOG PERMREP TO EUROPEAN OFFICE OF UN IN GENEVA.

2. NDONG NZE, SUBJECT OF BIO REPORT IN APRIL 1976 WHEN HE WAS SLATED FOR CAIRO EMBASSY (COPY BEING POUCHED USUN), HAS BEEN IN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE SINCE RETURNING FROM STUDIES IN GENEVA IN 1969. HE WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AMBASSADOR TO CAR AND TO CANADA PRIOR TO TAKING UN POST IN GENEVA. DURING EARLY 1970'S, HE WAS FRIENDLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN LIBREVILLE AND BANGUI, BUT WAS JUDGED A PROFESSIONAL LIGHTWEIGHT. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH NDONG NZE SINCE HIS ASSIGNMENT ABROAD IN 1972.

3. ROK AMBASSADOR IN LIBREVILLE, WHO KNOWS NDONG NZE, FEELS NEW PERMREP IS FRIEND OF WEST WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CARRY OUT GOG INSTRUCTIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS KOREA.

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HE PROFESSES HIMSELF DELIGHTED AT DEPARTURE OF ESSONGHE,

WHOSE SEEMING CORRUPTIBILITY LED TO NEAR-DEFECTION OF
GABONESE IN LST FALL'S UNGA VOTING ON KOREAN QUESTION.

4. FOR GENEVA: NDONG NZE'S REPLACEMENT IS SIMON EDOU
EYENE, WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN SINCE 1974 AND
SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS COUNSELOR IN ISRAEL. PRIOR TO 1971,
HE WAS AN INSPECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS IN DOMESTIC
SERVICE, BUT EVIDENTLY WAS NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY AT THAT
TIME. YOUR COMMENTS ON BOTH MEN WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. STEIGMANH

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